

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The filtering device according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein said filtering processor filters with a low-pass filter.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The filtering device according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein said image restoring processor restores the number of pixels forming said filtered image to exactly the same number of pixels forming said original image.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The filtering device according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein said image restoring processor interpolates pixel data forming said filtered image so as to generate pixel data forming said restored image.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The filtering device according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein pixel data forming said restored image is further filtered.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The filtering device according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein the number of pixels forming said low-resolution image can be selected from a stepwise series of predetermined numbers of pixels.

9. (Currently Amended) A filtering device which filters an original image, the filtering device comprising:

a reducing processor that reduces ~~the number~~ a number of pixels forming said original ~~the original~~ image so as to generate a low-resolution image, said reducing processor divides said

original image into a plurality of areas which have a plurality of pixels and then chooses one pixel from said plurality of pixels of each of said areas, the chosen pixel being the pixel used to form said low-resolution image, so as to generate said low-resolution image;

a filtering processor that filters pixel data of pixels ~~forming said~~ forming the low-resolution image so as to ~~transform said~~ transform the low-resolution image into a filtered image; and

an image restoring processor that increases the number of pixels forming ~~said filtered the~~ filtered image so as to generate a restored image.

10. (Currently Amended) A filtering process for filtering an original image, ~~comprising the steps of the process comprising:~~

decreasing the number of pixels forming ~~said the~~ original image so as to generate a low-resolution image, the decreasing comprising dividing the original image into a plurality of areas which have a plurality of pixels and then choosing one pixel from the plurality of pixels of each of the areas, the chosen pixel being the pixel used to form the low-resolution image, so as to generate the low-resolution image;

filtering pixel data of pixels ~~forming said~~ forming the low-resolution image so as to ~~transform said~~ transform the low-resolution image into a filtered image; and

restoring the number of pixels forming ~~said filtered the filtered~~ image to the number of pixels ~~forming said~~ forming the original image to generate a restored image.

11. (New) A filtering device which filters an original image, the filtering device comprising:

a reducing processor that reduces the number of pixels forming said original image so as to generate a low-resolution image, said reducing processor dividing said original image into a

plurality of areas which have a plurality of pixels, the average pixel data of each of said areas being data of each pixel forming said low-resolution image, so as to generate said low-resolution image;

a filtering processor that filters pixel data of pixels forming said low-resolution image so as to transform said low-resolution image into a filtered image; and

an image restoring processor that increases the number of pixels forming said filtered image so as to generate a restored image.

12. (New) A filtering process for filtering an original image, the process comprising:

decreasing the number of pixels forming the original image so as to generate a low-resolution image, the decreasing comprising dividing the original image into a plurality of areas which have a plurality of pixels, the average pixel data of each of the areas being data of each pixel forming the low-resolution image, so as to generate the low-resolution image;

filtering pixel data of pixels forming the low-resolution image so as to transform the low-resolution image into a filtered image; and

restoring the number of pixels forming the filtered image to the number of pixels forming the original image to generate a restored image.

13. (New) The filtering process according to claim 12, wherein the filtering comprises filtering with a low-pass filter.

14. (New) The filtering process according to claim 12, wherein the restoring restores the number of pixels forming the filtered image to exactly the same number of pixels forming the original image.

15. (New) The filtering process according to claim 12, wherein the restoring comprises interpolating pixel data forming the filtered image so as to generate pixel data forming the restored image.

16. (New) The filtering process according to claim 12, further comprising pixel data forming further filtering the restored image.

17. (New) The filtering process according to claim 12, wherein the number of pixels forming the low-resolution image can be selected from a stepwise series of predetermined numbers of pixels.